

# **North Cumberland Fire District Board of Trustees**

## **Minutes of July 17, 2013 Meeting**

**Present: Phillip Koutsogiane, Chairman Others: Robert Murray,  
Treasurer**

**Michael Spaziani, Vice Chairman Chief Brian Jackvony**

**John Patrick McCoy Ghislaine Therien, Clerk**

**Charles Wilk Martin Klara, Tax Collector Paul Lindquist**

**Brian Campbell**

**Harry MacDonald**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairman called to order the regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) at 7:00pm.**

### **SWEARING IN OF NEW TRUSTEES**

**Chairman swore in John Patrick McCoy and Charles Wilk as Trustees of the North Cumberland Fire District.**

### **NEW TRUSTEE**

**Chairman welcomed Charles Wilk as a new member of the Board of Trustees for the North Cumberland Fire District.**

### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

**Motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. Spaziani to appoint Phillip Koutsogiane as Chairman of the North Cumberland Fire**

**District to another term. Chairman Koutsogiane recused himself from this vote. Motion carried by all present.**

**Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. Wilk to appoint Michael Spaziani as Vice Chairman of the North Cumberland Fire District to another term. Motion carried by all present.**

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Motion made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Lindquist to accept the June 10, 2013 Minutes as presented. Motion carried by all present.**

### **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Change Mr. Gannon's years of service from 26 to 16. Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Spaziani to accept the Annual Meeting Minutes with change. Motion carried by all present.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No correspondence.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT - June 2013**

**Mr. Murray submitted his report and highlighted the following:**

#### **NCFD Payroll and Overtime**

- **June standard payroll was \$54,545.00; Overtime was \$18,464.54.**

**Year end total payroll is \$921,414.45.**

- **Total expenses through end of June \$1,681,945.50**

- **Percentage of overtime to total expenses 11.61%**

#### **Month of June 2013 P/L**

##### **Income/Revenue:**

- **\$4,995.90 collected in June 2013**
- **Interest income \$724.43 June 2013**
- **Various Fees \$5,321.00 June 2013 – includes \$4,400 of reimbursement relating to 2011/2012**
- **Collected 104.3% of budget**

##### **June 2013 Expenses:**

- **Total expenses for month \$153,027.78**
- **BC/BS \$17,863.97/Pension \$11,539.24**
- **Revenue in excess of expenses \$141,986.45**
- **Paid \$2,500 to Mr. Rubiano for his report**
- **Professional fees below budgeted amount**

##### **June 2013 Certain Account Balances**

- **Total Savings/Cash \$833,115.38**
- **Total Other Current Assets \$306,114.29**
- **RI State Pension \$4,323.60**
- **Lease Obligation \$246,452.90 (reduction due to principal payments)**
- **Total Current Liabilities \$78,814.73**
- **Total Equity \$1,919,474.75**
- **Total Liabilities & Equity \$2,554,972.67**

**Nothing out of the ordinary for the month of June 2013.**

**Motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. MacDonald to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried by all present.**

#### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT – June 2013**

- **Taxes collected in June \$4,895.90/YTD 2013 \$1,886,369.09**
- **2012-2011 Taxes Due \$76,582.26**
- **Prior years taxes due \$29,332.47**
- **Fees paid from tax sale \$100.00**
- **Post Office mailbox fee paid**

**Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Wilk to accept the Tax Collector's report as presented. Motion carried by all present.**

#### **CHIEF'S REPORT/MONTHLY EXPENDITURES - JUNE 2013**

**Chief presented his monthly report for June 2013 and highlighted the following:**

##### **Emergency Calls:**

- **The North Cumberland Fire Department responded to 110 incidents in the month of June.**
- **Personnel responded to 6 motor vehicle accidents/1 electrical-1 structure-1 grill-1 vehicle fires/1 mutual aid.**

##### **Personnel/Equipment:**

- **Assisted in road race on 6/9; Cumberland Water Dept with flushing of hydrants; Jason's Grant**

- Prepared station for annual meeting
- Prepared grounds for July 4th celebration
- Repaired downspouts

#### **Buildings/Grounds:**

• Lawn tractor returned from repairs.

#### **Equipment:**

• Brush 51 batteries replaced

• Emergency generator serviced

• Task Force nozzle damaged during fire – claim filed with VFIS

• 4 self-contained breathing apparatus loaned to Central Falls Fire Dept.

• Ordered 10 new portable radio batteries

#### **Expenditures**

Nothing out of the norm

Motion made by Mr. Spaziani and seconded by Mr. Wilk to accept the Chief's report as presented. Motion carried by all present.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Financial Management, Budget, Taxes:**

- 2013-2014 budget passed at annual meeting

##### **Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds**

- Nothing to report.

## **Personnel/Labor Relations**

- **Nothing to report.**

## **Negotiations**

- **Nothing to report.**

## **Consolidation**

- **Discussion under Old Business**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Consolidation/Merger Update With Requirements/Issues Involved:**

- **Legislation passed by General Assembly awaiting signature by Governor Chaffee.**
- **District will continue to operate independently till then**
- **District will create another budget for June 2014 annual meeting and set tax rate**
- **Need to find out requirements to prepare new committee for November 2014 election**
- **What will be done with surplus cash next year**
- **It is important to get the right people on the new Board in 2014 and that we have a good tax base.**
- **The Consolidated Committee has an established draft and by-laws.**
- **New elected committee in 2014 will inherit the 4 budgets. Existing committee working on a proposed merger budget and by-laws.**
- **Chairman will make himself available to the Committee.**
- **The Board has a responsibility to the taxpayers to make sure merger is smooth transition.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **Committee Assignments 2013/2014**

**Committee Chair Member 1 Member 2 Member 3**

**Financial Management/**

**Budget Taxes JMc BC RM Chief**

**Apparatus Building/**

**Grounds BC Chief CW**

**Personnel /Labor**

**Relations & Mgmt PL HMac CW**

**Negotiations**

**HMac PK MS BC**

**Other Committees:**

**Consolidation & Sharing**

**Of Services MS JMc HMac**

**Severance Payments**

**There are two firefighters leaving. William Mooney retiring and Kyle Garon resigning.**

**William Mooney**

**Chief has prepared severance information for Mr. Mooney for a total payout of \$9,891.84 which includes vacation, sick and pension.**

**Motion made by Mr. Wilk and seconded by Mr. Lindquist to accept Chief Jackvony's report. Motion carried by all present.**

**Kyle Garon**

**Resignation effective 7/9/13. Going to Bellingham Fire Department.**

**Motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. Campbell to table acceptance of Mr. Garon's severance payment until the August agenda. Motion carried by all present.**

**New Hires**

**Chief Jackvony informed the Board there is a total of three vacancies and he is looking to fill the openings (1 for Valley Falls and 2 for North Cumberland). Would like to combine and run an advertisement for all 3 vacancies. Training would also be for the 3 new hires at the same time.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Arthur Lambi, 8 Hannah Drive, Cumberland, RI**

**Concerned residents will get hit with a sizeable tax increase once the consolidation takes place and feels \$6.1M budget is realistic. The General Assembly passed the consolidation legislation. Any retirees will keep their benefits and feels the negotiation committee will carry a lot of weight. Also concerned about a tax increase and surplus not be used. The District also needs to track their cash balance of approximately \$800,000. Chairman disagrees with Mr. Lambi's cited**



**\$800,000 figure. The District looks at numbers on a monthly basis and not long term. Mr. Lambi stated if the legislation is amended it would be nice if North Cumberland Fire District has a tax cap. Perhaps it would be a good idea to invite Karen MacBeth to one of the District's monthly meeting so she could clarify the changes she would like amended in the legislation.**

**Mr. McCoy informed the Board that new tax bills are mailed around the end of August with little funds coming in July and August. Mr. Murray will prepare a weekly cash flow for the months of September and October and forward same to Chairman and Mr. McCoy for review. A tax cap cannot be set in place the first year. Has any Board member considered the possibility of looking into cutting checks to residents or giving a credit on tax bills for whatever surplus is left – does this present a legal issue?**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- None**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. Wilk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by all present. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ghislaine D. Therien**

**Ghislaine D. Therien, Clerk**